

Message Text

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51

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 EA-06 IO-10 EUR-12

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8767

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1401

E.O. 1165-. GDS

TAGS: AEMG, UY

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

FOR AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR

1. URUGUAY HAS A LONG HISTORY OF PROVIDING A HAVEN FOR
REFUGEES AND HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH ICEM THROUGH

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GVN BUT ALSO SUPPORTED
U.S. AND GVN DIPLOMACY ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN MATTERS IN
INTERNATIONAL FORA. THUS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PSYCHOLOG-
ICAL AND POLITICAL

CLIMATE HERE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO AN
APPROACH WITH RESPECT TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. I WILL
DISCUSS GENERAL SUBJECT WITH FONMIN ON APRIL 28. OUR
VIEWS ON CREATING ATMOSPHERE FOR POSITIVE RESPONSE CON-
TAINED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE GOU PROBABLY WOULD
DEPEND UPON TWO FACTORS. FIRST, URUGUAY HAS HAD A
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RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A SERIOUS

IMBALANCE IN WHICH HALF THE NATION'S PEOPLE LIVE IN THE CAPITAL CITY. NEVERTHELESS, URUGUAY IS AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY AND IT NEEDS FARMERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE CAPABLE OF HANDLING CITRUS FRUITS, RICE AND INTENSIVE CULTIVATION SUCH AS TRUCK GARDEN CROPS. THEREFORE, A PRIMARY CONSIDERATION HERE WOULD BE THE BACKGROUND AND WORK EXPERIENCE OF THE REFUGEES. URUGUAY DOES NOT NEED ARTISANS OR PROFESSIONALS APART FROM THOSE WHO MIGHT BE EXPERIENCED IN AGRO-RELATED SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES. SECOND, FINANCING OF TRANSPORTATION, RESETTLEMENT AND, PROBABLY, INITIAL EQUIPPING WOULD BE A NECESSITY. THE GOU IS NOW GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC PERIOD AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT HAS THE RESOURCES TO DIVERT TO REFUGEES. THUS, GOU RECEPTIVITY PROBABLY WOULD ALSO BE CONTINGENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTERNAL (UNHCR, ICEM OR OTHER) FINANCING.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN FONMINS IN WASHINGTON FOR THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PRESS THIS FURTHER INsofar AS CONCERNS LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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